

of the Sixth Bipartite Settlement for the Commercial Banks, the employees of RRBs had taken a stand that the Settlement should be extended to them also. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court by some employees. Government had taken a stand that the award of NIT could not be an authority for continued parity between the employees of RRBs and those of sponsor banks. The Supreme Court has not granted the relief prayed for, and instead observed that the employees may seek relief available to them under the Industrial Disputes Act.

In view of the provision of the Act and legal position and in order to have a comprehensive package that will reconcile the interests of the employees, the clients and the banks, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed a Committee to make recommendations to Government on the exercise of its powers under Section 17(1) of the Act. It is expected that the employees will present their view point before the Committee to enable it to make considered recommendations on their demands.

[Translation]

NABARD in Bihar

3327. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance extended by the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank in Kudarma, Giridih and Hazaribagh in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the areas in which investment has been made by the bank and the quantum thereof; and

(c) the policies being formulated by the NABARD to boost their investment in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Temporary Appointment in Overseas Bank

3328. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's directives for reservation for SC/ST in services are followed by Indian Overseas Bank in the appointments of Messengers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) The Indian Overseas Bank has reported that it is maintaining a common roster cadre for messengers, watchmen and drivers in the subordinate cadre and is following the guidelines/instructions of the Govt. in the matter of such appointments.

(b) Does not arise.

Lending Rates for Loan and Cash Credits

3329. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed Commercial Banks to have two set of prime lending rates for loan and cash credits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), have reported that Scheduled Commercial Banks are free to determine their own lending rates on their advances with credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakh. Banks are required to declare a Prime Lending Rate (PLR) which will be the minimum rate charged by the banks for credit limit of over Rs. 2 lakh Banks are also required to announce the maximum spread over the PLR for all advances other than consumer credit. Reserve Bank of India have in February 1997, clarified to the banks that they are allowed to prescribe PLRs and spreads over PLRs separately for loan component and cash credit component with approval of their respective boards.

New Bank Branches

3330. SHRI ANCHAL DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of branches proposed to be opened in Orissa during the year 1997-98;

(b) the number of letter of Indent issued during the year 1996-97 in respect of Orissa by the banks;

(c) whether the Government give any assistance to the Cooperative Banks for expansion and setting up of branches in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The details of authorisations issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Nationalised Banks during the period 1.4.95 to 28.2.97 for opening of branches in Orissa which are yet to be opened, are furnished in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) assists the State Government towards contribution to the share capital of District and State level co-operative banks.

It is for the state governments to formulate plans for the setting up and expansion of branches of these banks, having a bearing on viability. NABARD have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 0.96 crores, Rs. 2.93 crores and Rs. 6.41 crores for contribution to the share capital of Co-operative